

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 21-25, 28-32 and 35-55 were previously cancelled. This amendment amends claim 12. Upon entering this amendment, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

Cancel Claims 1-5

Claim 6 (Amended). An elongated [The] spacer stock [of claim 4] used in the manufacture of a spacer frame to separate sheets of an insulating unit, the spacer stock comprising:

an elongated base;

a first elongated leg having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section;

a second elongated leg having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section;

wherein the first members of the first and second legs are joined to the base to provide the spacer stock with a generally U-shaped cross section, wherein an open end of the U formed by the first and second legs and the base is open in a first direction, the U-shaped cross section of the first leg open in a second direction, and the U-shaped cross section of the second leg open in the second direction with the first and second directions opposite to one another;

wherein the first and second legs are spaced from and out of contact with one another;

wherein the first and second members of the first leg are spaced from and out of contact with one another; the first and second members of the second leg are spaced from and out of contact with one another; the second member of the first and the second legs are spaced from one another, and the first and second legs are connected to one another only by the base to provide only one thermal conducting path from the first leg to the second leg, and

wherein the end of the second member of the first and second legs is radiused, and the radiused end of the second members [member] of the first

and second legs [member] are spaced from the inner surface of the elongated base between the first and second legs.

Cancel Claims 7 and 8.

Claim 9 (Amended). An elongated [The] spacer stock [of claim 1] used in the manufacture of a spacer frame to separate sheets of an insulating unit, wherein the spacer stock [has] comprises:

a continuous elongated base;

a first elongated leg having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section;

a second elongated leg having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section;

wherein the first members of the first and second legs are joined to the base to provide the spacer stock with a generally U-shaped cross section with an open end of the U formed by the first and second legs and the base open in a first direction, the U-shaped cross section of the first leg open in a second direction, and the U-shaped cross section of the second leg open in the second direction with the first and second directions opposite to one another;

wherein the first and second legs are spaced from and out of contact with one another, and

wherein the first and second members of the first leg are spaced from and out of contact with one another; the first and second members of the second leg are spaced from and out of contact with one another; the second member of the first and the second legs are spaced from one another; the first and second legs are connected to one another only by the base to provide only one thermal conducting path from the first leg to the second leg, and portions of the second member of the first and second legs are removed at positions along the spacer stock that form corners when the spacer stock is bent into the [a] spacer frame.

Claim 10 (Amended). The spacer stock of claim 9 wherein the first member of the first and second legs at corners have crease [has weakening] lines arranged to have a generally "V" shape.

Claim 11 (Amended). The spacer stock of claim 9 wherein the first member of the first and the second legs has a cut out portion at the positions along the spacer stock that form corners when the spacer stock is bent into the [a] spacer frame.

Claim 12 (Amended). An elongated [The] spacer stock [of claim 1] used in the manufacture of a spacer frame to separate sheets of an insulating unit, the spacer stock comprising:

an elongated base, wherein the base has a "T" shaped cross section;

a first elongated leg having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section;

a second elongated leg having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section;

wherein the first members of the first and second legs are joined to the base to provide the spacer stock with a generally U-shaped cross section with an open end of the U formed by the first and second legs and the base open in a first direction, the U-shaped cross section of the first leg open in a second direction, and the U-shaped cross section of the second leg open in the second direction with the first and second directions opposite to one another;

wherein the first and the second legs are spaced from and out of contact with one another;

wherein the first and second members of the first leg are spaced from and out of contact with one another; the first and second members of the second leg are spaced from and out of contact with one another; the second member of the first and the second legs are spaced from one another, and the first and second legs are connected to one another only by the base to provide only one thermal conducting path from the first leg to the second leg, and

wherein the "T" shaped cross section of the base extends [extending] upwardly between the first and second legs, and is spaced from and out of contact with the first and second legs.

Claim 13 (Amended). A closed spacer frame for separating sheets of an insulating unit, the closed spacer frame comprising:

a base defining perimeter of the closed spacer frame;

a first leg connected to the base, the first leg defining a side of the spacer frame and having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section wherein the first member and the second member of the first leg are spaced from one another;

a second leg connected to the base, the second leg defining an opposite side of the spacer frame and having a first member and a second member joined together to have a generally U-shaped cross section wherein the first member and the second member of the second leg are spaced from one another; wherein

the first and second legs are spaced from and out of contact with one another and connected to the base to provide the spacer frame with a generally U-shaped cross section with an open end of the U-shaped cross section of the spacer frame facing in a first direction and opening of the U-shaped cross section [U] of the first and second legs facing in a second direction opposite to the first direction to reduce torsional twist, and the first and second legs are connected to one another only by the base to provide only one thermal conducting path from the first leg to the second leg.

Claim 14 (Amended). The closed spacer frame [stock] of claim 13 wherein the first member of the first and second legs is joined to the second member of the first and second legs by a radiused portion.

Claim 15 (Amended). The closed spacer frame [stock] of claim 14 wherein the first and second legs each include:

the [a] first member of the first and the second legs joined to the [a] second member of the first and the second legs, respectively to have a generally hairpin configuration with the first member of the first and the second legs joined to the base.

Claim 16 (Amended). The closed spacer frame [stock] of claim 15 wherein:

the end of the second member of the first and second legs is radiused, and

the radiused end of the second member of the first and second legs is out of contact with the base.

Claim 17 (Amended). The closed spacer frame of claim 13 wherein the spacer frame has corners and the base is continuous around the corners of the spacer frame.

Claim 18 (Amended). The closed spacer frame of claim 17 wherein [the] portions of the first and second [outer] legs are bent toward one another over the base.

Claim 19 (Amended). The closed spacer frame of claim 18 wherein portions of the second member of the first and second legs are removed at the corners and the portions of the first and second legs bent toward one another over the base are portions of the first member of the first and second legs[are bent over the base].

Claim 20 (Amended). The closed spacer frame of claim 16 wherein a bead of moisture pervious material having a desiccant is deposited on the surface of the base between the first and second legs defined as inner surface of the base, and the bead having portions between the radiused end of the second member of the first and second legs and the inner surface of the base.

Cancel Claims 21-25

Claim 26 (Amended). An [The] insulating unit [of claim 25] comprising:
a pair of sheets;
a spacer frame between the pair of sheets, the spacer frame comprising:
a base;
a first leg
a second leg;
wherein the first and second legs are spaced from and out of
contact with one another and joined to the base to provide the spacer
frame in cross section with a generally U-shaped cross section with an
open end of the U-shaped cross section facing a first direction and the
first and second legs each including a first member having two ends,

one end attached to the base and the remaining end joined by a radiused portion to a second member such that the second member has an end positioned relative to the base and the first and the second members form a generally U-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an opening of the U-shaped cross-sectional configuration facing a second direction opposite to the first direction to reduce torsional twist, and the first and second legs are connected to one another only by the base to provide only one thermal conducting path from the first leg to the second leg, and

wherein[:] the first and second members are spaced from one another to provide the first and second legs with a hairpin cross sectional configuration; the end of the second member is radiused, and the radiused end is spaced from and out of contact with the base, and means for securing the sheets to the spacer frame.

Claim 27. The insulating unit of claim 26 wherein the spacer frame has corners and the base is continuous around the corners.

Cancel Claims 28-32.

Claim 33 (Amended). A [The] method [set forth in claim 32 further including] of making and using a spacer stock comprising the steps of:

providing a strip of bendable material;

shaping the strip to provide an elongated piece of spacer stock having a base, a first leg and a second leg, the base and legs joined to provide the spacer stock with a generally U-shaped cross section with the U-shaped cross section open in a first direction and the first and second legs spaced from one another and out of contact with one another, and the legs each having a first member joined to and spaced from a second member to have a U-shaped cross section with an opening of the U-shaped cross section of the first and second legs open in a second direction opposite to the first direction to reduce torsional twist of the spacer stock and the first and second legs connected to one another only by the base to provide only one thermal conducting path from the first leg to the second leg;

identifying corner positions on the elongated piece of spacer stock;
removing portions of the second member of the first and second legs at
the corner positions, and
bending the spacer stock at the corner positions to provide a spacer
frame.

Claim 34. The method as set forth in claim 33 further including the step of:
securing a sheet to outer surface of each of the legs to provide an
insulating unit.

Claims 35- 55 (Cancelled).